

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 1256

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H.P. 899

House of Representatives, February 16, 1999

**Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Study the Operation of and Support  
for the Board of Environmental Protection.**

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Reference to the Committee on Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative COWGER of Hallowell.  
Cosponsored by Senator TREAT of Kennebec and  
Representatives: CAMPBELL of Holden, GOODWIN of Pembroke, O'NEAL of Limestone,  
SNOWE-MELLO of Poland, TESSIER of Fairfield, USHER of Westbrook, WHEELER of  
Bridgewater, Senator: LONGLEY of Waldo.

2           **Sec. 1. The Task Force to Study the Operation of and Support for the**  
3 **Board of Environmental Protection established. Resolved:** That the  
4 Task Force to Study the Operation of and Support for the Board of  
5 Environmental Protection, referred to in this resolve as the  
6 "task force," is established; and be it further

7           **Sec. 2. Membership; chair; quorum. Resolved:** That the task  
8 force is comprised of 11 members appointed as follows:

9           1. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed  
10 by the Speaker of the House;

11           2. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of  
12 the Senate;

13           3. Two representatives of environmental groups, appointed  
14 by the Governor;

15           4. Two representatives of business interests, appointed by  
16 the Governor;

17           5. One person who owns real property in the State,  
18 appointed by the Governor;

19           6. The Chair of the Board of Environmental Protection; and

20           7. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection.

21           The members shall elect a chair of the task force by  
22 majority vote of all members. The chair of the Board of  
23 Environmental Protection and the Commissioner of Environmental  
24 Protection are nonvoting members. A quorum exists when a  
25 majority of members are present; and be it further

26           **Sec. 3. Appointment; vacancies; expenses. Resolved:** That the  
27 appointments must be made by July 15, 2000. The appointing  
28 authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the  
29 Legislative Council upon making their appointments. An  
30 appointment for a vacancy must be made in the same manner as for  
31 the vacating member. The Chair of the Board of Environmental  
32 Protection and those members of the task force who are  
33 Legislators are entitled to receive legislative per diem and  
34 reimbursement of necessary expenses for their attendance at  
35 authorized meetings of the task force. Other members of the task  
36 force who are not otherwise compensated by their employers or  
37 other entities whom they represent are entitled to receive  
38 reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred for their attendance  
39 at authorized meetings; and be it further

2           **Sec. 4. Duties and responsibilities. Resolved:** That the task  
force shall review the structure and operation of the Board of  
4   Environmental Protection to determine whether the board is  
operating as an independent body or as a part of the executive  
6   branch of government and whether the administrative and technical  
staff that is dedicated exclusively to the board is needed; and  
be it further

8  
10           **Sec. 5. Report. Resolved:** That by January 15, 2000 the task  
force shall submit a report with its findings to the Joint  
12   Standing Committee on Natural Resources. The Joint Standing  
Committee on Natural Resources shall report out any legislation  
14   to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature concerning  
findings of the task force.

16  
**SUMMARY**

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20           This resolve establishes an 11-member task force to study  
whether the Board of Environmental Protection operates as an  
22   independent body or as a part of the executive branch of  
government and whether the administrative and technical staff  
dedicated exclusively to the Board of Environmental Protection is  
24   needed. The task force is to report its findings to the Joint  
Standing Committee on Natural Resources by January 15, 2000.